

MARINE PARKS (PARLIAMENTARY SCRUTINY) AMENDMENT BILL – 15 Sept 2010

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 1 July 2010.)

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (17:55): I rise as shadow fisheries minister in support of the Marine Parks (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Amendment Bill 2010, but I also note the concerns of my colleagues on this side of the house and I want to echo their concerns. This Labor government—and they have acknowledged it—has a policy of announce and defend: not consult and work through something that the community wants, or that will work with the community. It is announce and defend, and this is the problem with the marine parks legislation.

There are also some members of the community who want 30 per cent no take zones. My concern from the little bit of information that I have managed to access on this issue is that some of the science, or so-called science, used to work out no take and habitat zones is over 10 years old—it is about 11 years old. In a lot of cases, I am gathering from information fishermen give to me, that sometimes it seems like these people pick a spot on a map and say, 'Well, we will make that a no take zone,' and it has no real reference to whether it should be an area that should be a no take zone or a habitat zone.

This is causing major angst amongst fishermen, and I must say that members of the commercial fishing sector and the recreational fishing sector remain absolutely concerned that the Department of Natural Resources (formerly the department of environment and heritage) has an agenda which is balanced in favour of reducing their access to existing fishing rights by making large sections of the marine parks no take zones. This is the major concern of the fishery.

We have already heard from the member for Flinders, where the fishing industry in his area contributes almost as much as the agriculture industry. It is a major industry over on the West Coast and near Port Lincoln, which I think is the premier port for fishing in the country—and they absolutely do it well.

If you look at the prawn fishery and how that is managed, I believe they can go out for 50 nights. They manage that well; they work together. I seek leave to conclude my remarks at a later date.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.